

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 AID-20 OMB-01 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01 /127 W

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P 300334 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2340

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9507

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS PINT PINS MILI VS

SUBJECT MR-2 SITREP, MAY 29, 1973

FOLLOWING MSG REC FROM AMCONSUL NHA TRANG ACTION EMBASSY
SAIGON INFO CINCPAC USSAG NKP TRAFB USDAO SAIGON REPEATED

FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NHA TRANG 0558

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. MILITARY SITUATION: REPORTING PERIOD WAS MARKED BY
ANOTHER DAY OF LIGHT ACTIVITY IN MR 2. REPORTED CALM REIGNED ACROSS
EIGHT OF TWELVE PROVINCES IN THE REGION. ONLY IN BINH DINH,
PHU YEN, QINH THUAN, AND KONTUM WERE THERE SIGNS OF A CONTINUING
MILITARY STRUGGLE. GROUND AND FIRE ATTACKS ON RF AND PF POSITIONS
RESULTED IN 20 ENEMY KIA AND 10 RVNAF WIA. IN ADDITION, TWO
MINING INCIDENTS IN PHU YEN AND ONE IN BINH DINH BROUGHT THE

RVNAF TOTAL OF WIA TO 13.

2. THREE ENEMY TERRORIST INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN
BINH THUAN WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS. ON MAY 25, THE VC MORTARED
A SCHOOL IN THE CATHOLIC RESETTLEMENT HAMLET OF VINH AN. THE
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GVN HAS ALREADY ASKED THE ICCS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT.

3. ALSO IN BINH THUAN, THE VC DETONATED A MINE ON A RAILROAD BRIDGE 20 CFS EAST OF SONG MAO. RAIL TRANSPORTATION FROM PHAN RANG TO SONG MAO HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE THIS WEEKEND. THE INCIDENT RESULTED IN A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT.

4. MOST RECENT TERRORIST INCIDENT IN BINH THUAN OCCURRED ON MAY 28 WHEN VC SUCCESSFULLY INFILTRATED THE HAMLET OF TAN HOA, KIDNAPPING TWO PSDF CADRE AND SEIZING AN M2 RIFLE.

5. PRISONER RELEASE: PHU YEN SECTOR COMMANDER REPORTS THAT VC RELEASED THREE ARVN SOLDIERS AND ONE RF IN TUY HOA DISTRICT, ALL FOUR HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN PHU YEN ON JULY 23, 1972. AFTER THEIR RELEASE AT AN CHAN VILLAGE, THE FORMER POW'S TOOK A LAMBRETTA TO TUY HOA SUB-SECTOR HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY PRESENTED THEMSELVES TO DISTRICT OFFICIALS. THIS WAS SECOND UNILATERAL RELEASE OF POW'S BY VC WITHIN ONE WEEK PERIOD (NHA TRANG 542). MOTIVE FOR THE RELEASES REMAINS UNCLEAR. THERE IS NO INFORMATION TO LINK THESE RELEASES TO THE OFT-POSTPONED AND STILL UNRESOLVED RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS IN PHU YEN. (MR-2 NHA TRAN BRIEFER REFERRED TO THESE AS "ESCAPEES.")

6. CONVERSATION WITH MR-2 COMMANDER: MINPOL BENNETT ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING CG DUNLOP AND EMBOFF FRANCIS CALLED ON MR-2 COMMANDER, MAJ GEN TOAN, MAY 28. GEN TOAN ACKNOWLEDGE ALERT STATUS OF FORCES IN MR-2, STATING THAT IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION (PRE-SUMABLY REFERRING TO THE KISSINGER-THO TALKS) "WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOW." THE GENERAL INDICATED THAT THE ALERT WOULD BE MAINTAINED INTO JUNE. THE VOICED CONFIDENCE THAT HIS FORCES COULD HANDLE ANY COMMUNIST LAND GRAB, BUT HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE ENEMY'S FORCE BUILD-UP. GEN TOAN NOTED THAT "THIS WEEK" 250 TRUCKS HAD BEEN SPOTTED MOVING SOUTH TOWARDS DUC CO, 50 OF WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE CARRYING TROOPS. (THIS INFO WAS REPORTED IN NHA TRANG MR-2 HQ BRIEFING AM MAY 29.) MAJ GEN TOAN ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT ULTIMATELY BUT NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE THE COMMUNISTS WILL LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE, STATING THAT HE SAW NO OTHER REASON FOR THEIR BUILD-UP. HOWEVER, HE SEEMED TO FEEL THAT HIS FORCES COULD HANDLE THE SHORT-TERM THREAT. MAJ GEN TOAN, CONFIDENTIAL

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HOWEVER, DID NOT GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE BELIEVES A MAJOR ENEMY THRUST IS IMMINENT.

7. CONTACTS WITH VC/NVA COMMANDERS: GEN TOAN ALSO STATED IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION THAT THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN KONTUM RECENTLY, INCLUDING ENEMY USE OF 130 MM ARTILLERY. REGARDING REPORTS OF TALKS BETWEEN ARVN AND

COMMUNIST MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THAT AREA, GEN TOAN SAID THAT SUCH TALKS HAD " NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED," IMPLYING THAT HE HAD ORDERED THEM STOPPED . CONTACTS BETWEEN OPPOSING COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD MUST NOT RPT NOT BE USED TO " DRAW LINES" R DELINEATE AREAS OF CONTROL, GEN TOAN ASSERTED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THEY MAY BE USED TO ACCOMPLISH IMMEDIATE ENDS, SUCH AS TO ALLOW FOR MEDEVAC OR RESUPPLY IN A GIVEN TACTICAL SITUATION.

8. VILLAGE ELECTIONS: IN BINH THUAN VILLAGE COUNCIL ELECTIONS WERE HELD IN 17 VILLAGES WITHOUT INCIDENT (NHA TRANG 549, PARA 10). TALLY OF RETURNS EXPECTED TO TAKE MOST OF WEEK BUT TURNOUT ESTIMATED AT 84 PERCENT OF REGISTERED VOTERS . PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS SHOW DEMOCRACY PARTY CANDIDATES TO BE DOING VERY WELL. ELECTIONS WERE ALSO HELD IN 7 VILLAGES OF PHU YEN WITH TURNOUT ALSO AVERAGING ABOUT 80 PERCENT.

9. ICCS: POLOFF DARLAC REPORTS BITTER EXCHANGES BETWEEN CANADIANS AND POLES IN ARRIVING 2-2 SPLIT DECISION ON APRIL 12 INCIDENT INVOLVING DEATH OF 9 PERSONS ACCOMPANYING LOGGING TRUCK (NHA TRANG 547, PARA 3). INDOESIANS WERE HELPFUL AND SHARP, HUNGARIANS RATHER PASSIVE, BUT DIVISION BETWEEN BLOCS IN BAN ME THUOT IS NOW COMPLETE WITH NO AMITY WHATSOEVER BEYOND BASIC COURTESIES.

10. IN BINH THUAN CANADIANS AND INDOESIANS QUESTIONED CONFESSED THROWER OF MAY 20 GRENADE WHICH KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED 22 (NHA TRANG 528, PARA 3) WHILE HUNGARIANS AND POLES CONTENTEND INCIDENT IS POLICE MATTER.

11. RESETTLEMENT: FINAL PHASE OF RESETTLEMENT PLAN TO CLEAR KONTUM REFUGEES FROM DAM DAN CAMP (NHA TRANG RWN PARA 4) WAS COMPLETED SATURDAY WHEN LAST OF 2,227 PERSONS WERE DEPOSITED AT BUON HANG 2 RESETTLEMENT SITE IN DARLAC PROVINCE.
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CONDITIONS AT SITE ARE PRIMITIVE WITH FOOD, WATER AND MEDICINE IN SHORT SUPPLY. PROVINCE CHIEF AT SITE EACH DAY PROVIDING BL ECTION. RESETTLEMENT AND RETURN TO VILLAGE OF SOME 6,000 MONTAGNARDS IN CU ENUN VILLAGE, PHUOC AN DISTRICT, NOW MORE THAN WEEK BEHIND SCHEDULE AND ADVENT HEAVY RAIN COULD LEAD TO FURTHER DELAY. DUNLOP
WHITEHOUSE

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